

1999
CHILDREN'S
JUSTICE ACT TASK
FORCE REPORT



STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the California Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force, it is my pleasure to provide this 1999 CJA Task Force Report to the citizens of California.

The CJA Task Force is responsible for making policy and training recommendations to the state for improving and reforming the manner in which suspected child abuse cases are handled. The CJA Task Force is comprised of professionals throughout California who have knowledge and expertise relating to the criminal justice system and issues of child physical abuse, child neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child maltreatment related fatalities.

The 1996 CJA Task Force Report contained thirty-one recommendations for improving the California criminal justice system as it relates to abused and neglected children. In response to the those recommendations, the CJA Task Force developed a Minimum Standard Protocol (MSP) for the Investigation for Child Abuse and held regional Transfer of Knowledge (TOK) Forums around the state to disseminate the MSP, to evaluate the status of existing county protocols, and to help counties develop and implement a protocol that meets the bar set by the MSP. The CJA Task Force is supportive of legislation that will establish a permanent source of funding for centers and teams throughout the State that meet that bar.

The CJA Task Force is also funding seven programs (with a total of eleven individual projects) in response to the CJA Mission Statement and directly related to the course of action outlined in the above thirty-one recommendations.

The CJA Task Force members, individually and collectively, strive to make California a safer place for children. We feel that the most effective way to reduce the risk of violence against children is to encourage every citizen to become involved in developing strategies and implementing solutions to this complex problem.

This report will be available to members of the state Legislature, administrators, policy makers, judges and other professionals who deal with victims of child abuse and neglect. In this way, it is hoped that the report will be used to develop key strategies to improve and reform the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases involving child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Sincerely,

Hon. Harry Elias
Chair, CJA Task Force
Superior Court of San Diego



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CALIFORNIA 1999 CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE REPORT

FOREWORD

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requires states to undertake a comprehensive law and policy review, evaluation and development of recommendations every three years. On behalf of Governor Pete Wilson, I am pleased to present California's 1999 Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force Report to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect.

The CJA Task Force has made significant progress on the thirty-one recommendations made in the 1996 Children's Justice Act Task Force Report. One of the major accomplishments is the Minimum Standard Protocol for the Multidisciplinary Investigation of Child Abuse developed by the members of the CJA Task Force and disseminated throughout the state through regional Transfer of Knowledge (TOK) Forums. In addition, the seven new pilot programs funded by the CJA Task Force demonstrate how an integrated response by all segments of a community's child abuse intervention system can reduce the risk of violence to our children and lessen the trauma that children experience once they disclose abuse. Also included in this report is a three-year summary of legislation passed by the California Legislature and signed into law by Governor Pete Wilson.

Similar to the response to the 1996 CJA Task Force Report, legislators, administrators, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, medical examiners, child welfare service professionals, mental health program providers, community leaders and child abuse practitioners from all fields are encouraged to review and discuss the issues, recommendations and courses of action contained in this report. In support of this process, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning will continue to provide a platform for policy discussion on this very important issue.

It is my hope that California 1999 CJA Task Force Report continues to strengthen and facilitate collaborative efforts between agencies and disciplines throughout the State and to implement common-ground solutions to the problem of child abuse. I believe that solutions to this complex problem can be achieved, and that by working together we can make California safer place for our children.

Sincerely,

FRANK GRIMES
Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

History and Background of the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning

In 1968, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) was established as California's state planning agency to work under the direction of the California Council on Criminal Justice (CCCJ) to administer federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) block grants. The intent of these block grants was to improve the operations of the criminal and juvenile justice system. To implement improvements that met local needs, regional and local planning units were established. These units were created to help OCJP identify local and statewide justice system problems and potential solutions, establish funding priorities, to select grant recipients, disburse funds and monitor grant projects.

In the late 1970s, LEAA was phased out and most of the regional and local planning units were closed. Since 1980, numerous state statutes have been enacted directing OCJP to develop a broad range of programs to improve California's criminal justice system and to assist victims of crime. In many instances, successful programs initially funded have been continued and expanded.

Purpose

OCJP is the lead agency responsible for implementing the Governor's Public Safety and Victim Services Plan for California. This plan is a comprehensive system-wide approach designed to support criminal and juvenile justice agencies, local victim services programs, schools, community-based organizations, community crime prevention programs and training programs for prosecutors and public defenders. OCJP provides leadership and direction in implementing the plan by:

Providing grant funding to State and local units of government and private nonprofit organizations;

Supporting the development of state-of-the-art approaches for the justice system and victim service programs;

Providing technical assistance to ensure effective program management;

Disseminating information on successful program models and current and emerging research.

Promoting interdisciplinary information exchange and support between criminal and juvenile justice agencies and public and private organizations;

Developing publications on crime prevention, crime suppression, victimology and victim services for statewide distribution.

California Children's Justice Act

The Federal Children's Justice Act (CJA) is part of the federal Child Abuse Prevention Act and Treatment (CAPTA) of 1988. This act authorized the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants available for the purpose of assisting states in developing, establishing and operating programs designed to improve the handling of child abuse, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child neglect cases. The federal CJA requires each participating state to establish a task force to comprehensively review the State's handling of cases and develop policy and training recommendations that will improve the system, reduce further traumatization to child victims, and protect the rights of the accused.

In April 1993, OCJP established the California CJA Task Force with leading professionals from law enforcement, district attorney's offices, the courts, child advocacy, physicians, mental health, child protective services, childhood disabilities, parenting and court appointed special advocacy. The ongoing work of the CJA Task Force includes the comprehensive evaluation of the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases. The CJA Task Force has specifically focused on child sexual abuse, child exploitation and child maltreatment related fatality cases.

In May 1993, under the direction of Governor Pete Wilson, OCJP applied for funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services under the Federal Children's Justice Act. The CJA Task Force established the following priorities for improving the response to child abuse in California:

California should establish Multidisciplinary Interview Teams (MDIT) in every county. The Task Force recommended that a training center be funded to provide statewide training and technical assistance to jurisdictions with, or proposing to establish, multidisciplinary interview teams.

California should fund pilot projects designed to provide advocacy to children in multiple judicial, investigative and administrative jurisdictions.

California should fund and establish a program to develop a data base on child death in California, and to offer technical assistance to jurisdictions with Child Death Review Teams.

California should fund a program to support training of court appointed advocates and court-appointed attorneys regarding the legal rights of child victims and how to protect them through legal representation.

The State of California was awarded funding under the Federal CJA in October 1993. OCJP was designated as the lead agency in the development, implementation and administration of the programs funded under the California CJA. OCJP, in consultation with the California CJA Task Force, designated how CJA funds should be utilized.

History of Previous Efforts

In 1986, the California State Legislature established the Child Victim Witness Judicial Advisory Committee (Committee) to study investigative and judicial practices as they pertain to child victims and witnesses, with particular attention to victims of intrafamilial child abuse and the coordination of related criminal and civil proceedings. The California Attorney General's Office convened the Committee, completed the study and produced a Final Report dated October 1988. The Final Report highlighted four proposals for systemic reform:

A new approach to interviewing child victim witnesses using Child Interview Specialists.
A restructuring of California's Superior Court to create a new Family Relations Division.
The provision of child advocacy and support services to child victim witnesses throughout the investigative and judicial proceedings.
Evidentiary and procedural changes for the management of child victim witnesses.

The Committee further recommended the establishment of investigative, judicial and child advocacy pilot and demonstration projects to assist counties in implementing these reforms.

Progress on the Committee's recommendations include the following:

In 1989, the Legislature authorized the Office of the Attorney General to establish pilot projects to test the efficacy of multidisciplinary interview centers (MDICs) where children could be interviewed by highly trained interview specialists, and where cases could be evaluated by multidisciplinary teams comprised of representatives from all agencies involved in the investigation.

The pilot projects were successful in eliminating unnecessary repetitive interviews of children, streamlining investigative practices, improving the truth-finding process and protecting the rights of children, their families and the accused. This outcome supports the use of multidisciplinary interview teams and centers to investigate child abuse cases and to reduce trauma to child abuse victims involved in these investigations.

Santa Clara County has taken the lead in implementing each of the Committee's four recommendations, and has significantly improved practices related to the investigation, handling and coordination of judicial proceedings in child abuse cases. Although other counties have not implemented all of the recommendations, there have been significant gains in the investigation, handling and coordination of child abuse cases.

The provision of child advocacy and support services to child victim witnesses throughout the investigation and judicial proceedings has been significantly enhanced by programs such as Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs. This type of program demystifies the investigative and judicial process through age-appropriate information, education and support of child abuse victims. Most of these programs have been developed primarily at the local level and vary in the degree and scope of services according to the economic and human resources of the particular community in which they operate.

Evidentiary and procedural changes for the management of child victim witnesses include modifications in the hearsay rule and modifications in courtrooms used to hear child abuse cases. Evidence Code 1253 allows statements to health care providers to be admitted as an exception to the hearsay rule in child abuse cases. Evidence Code 1360 creates a child hearsay exception by allowing admission of reliable hearsay statements that do not fit traditional hearsay exceptions. In *Re Carmen* (28 Cal App 4th, 908, 1994) creates a hearsay exception for reliable statements made by children in Dependency court. *People vs Sharp* (29 Cal App 4th, 1772, 1994) allows changes to be made to the courtroom to accommodate child witnesses.

Of course, reform in California's Criminal Justice System is not limited to the above but involves a broad range of programs and applications that affect California's 58 counties and involve multiple jurisdictions. Some reform has taken place in a coordinated and planned manner within a particular community, while other reforms have more sporadic and in need of leadership or resources. As noted in the 1996 CJA Report, a balance of local planning with statewide coordination is essential to implementing system reform that will further enhance the investigative, administrative and judicial practices related to child abuse victims and their families.

The California Task Force initially funded four programs that were directly related to the issues identified by the Committee. Those programs included the following Model and Demonstration Programs, all of which were funded during 1993 - 1996:

The Multidisciplinary Training and Technical Assistance (MDIT) Program

The primary goal of this program was to develop, establish and operate a program designed to provide training and technical assistance to law enforcement officers, social workers, child interview specialists, medical examiners, prosecutors and mental health service providers. This program focused on reducing the emotional and psychological trauma of the investigative process to children who report abuse through a coordinated effort of the many agencies who have jurisdictional responsibility in responding to reported cases of child abuse. The accomplishments of this program included the following:

Statewide survey on each county's child abuse investigation procedures and technical assistance needs.

Establishment of a directory of individuals with expertise in the multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of suspected child abuse that can be utilized as a technical assistance resource.

The provision of on-site technical assistance to counties with, or wanting to establish, an MDIT. Develop and Deliver statewide training at no cost to recipients.

Cross Jurisdictional Advocacy (CAC) for Children Program

The primary goal of the CJC program was to develop, establish, and operate a program that provided trained advocates for children in order to improve the system's response to children, particularly children who are victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim. This program required projects to provide the following:

Cross-jurisdictional advocacy
Interagency coordination
Promotion of system effectiveness
Training
Demonstration of cultural competency

Child Death Review (CDR) Index and Training Program

The primary goal of the CDR program is to coordinate and integrate state and local efforts to address fatal child abuse and neglect, and to create a body of information to prevent child deaths. This program was administered by the Department of Justice and entailed the following:

Development of a statewide data base
Development of a statewide directory of Child death Review Teams
Provision of technical assistance to local agencies in planning and establishing Child Death Review teams.

Child Victim Legal Representation Training Program

The primary goal of this program was to provide training to attorneys and child advocates on the legal representation of the rights of child victims in dependency and family courts. Regional trainings were held throughout the State based on a training delivery model for both court-appointed attorneys and court-appointed advocates in every California county.

Pursuant to federal requirements, a comprehensive evaluation of the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of child abuse cases was undertaken. In order to met this requirement, the CJA Task Force scheduled regional public hearings and focus groups during the months of September and October, 1995. The purpose of these meetings was to obtain testimony and data from practitioners in the field of child abuse.

Prior to convening the public hearings, the CJA Task Force sent a survey to child abuse prevention councils and coalition, law enforcement investigators, medical examiners, prosecutors, judicial officers and child abuse service providers throughout the State. Public hearings and focus groups were then held six regions throughout the State where written and oral testimony was received from more than 200 professionals working in all aspects of child abuse, including investigation, medicine, prosecution, courts, child welfare services, mental health and disabilities services and child advocates. Their testimony focused primarily on the way that suspected cases of child abuse and neglect are handled and on improving the system so that the trauma children experience less trauma when they disclose abuse, that the evidence gathered is forensically sound, and that the rights of all parties involved in the case are protected.

The public hearings and focus groups also provided the information for the thirty-one recommendations contained in the 1996 CJA Task Force Report (1996 Report). A list of those recommendations are in the Appendix and a summarization of the progress made on those recommendations are in the Executive Summary of the 1999 CJA Task Force Report (1999

Report). A more detailed description of that progress is contained in the Accomplishments section of the 1999 Report. In addition, a detailed description of the seven programs that the CJA Task Force is currently funding can also be found in the Accomplishments section of the 1999 Report. Below is a brief description of these programs, which are closely related to the initial programs funded by the CJA Task Force and directly related to the thirty-one recommendations contained in the 1996 Report.

Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Advocacy Program

Children who disclose abuse need timely intervention services from specially trained and adequately equipped practitioners. These children need to be interviewed by a child forensic interview specialist who is a member of a multidisciplinary interview team in order to obtain a forensically defensible interview that will assist the other members of the team (law enforcement, prosecution, social services, medical and mental health professionals) in assessing the child needs for protection and intervention services. The primary goal of the projects under this program is to fill the gaps in the services that abused children receive.

Abuse Reactive African American High Risk Youth Program

The purpose of this program is to conduct research and develop a plan for systemic change in the Juvenile Justice System. This project will address ways to identify and provide intervention services to high-risk African American youth between the ages of 9-14 years who have a history of victimization through abuse or neglect and will focus on reducing this population group's involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Child Death Review Team Training Program

This program will conduct a training needs assessment of all existing California County Child Death Review (CDR) teams, develop a core CDR training curriculum and establish common definitions for use in the assessment, tracking and reporting of child fatalities. In addition, the program will provide regional CDR team trainings by satellite and the Internet, and will train local CDR team members.

Child Pornography Law Enforcement Training Program

This program funds a consortium of law enforcement agencies in Southern California, which will develop standards and methods of preventing, detecting, investigating and prosecuting cases involving child pornography. This project will conduct an undercover operation to identify and investigate sources of child pornography leading to the arrest and prosecution of individuals involved in the creation and distribution of child pornography as well as those who exploit children for these purposes. This project will providing trainings in addition to creating a model multiagency Child Pornography Response Team (CPRT) and handbook for the replication of CPRTs.

Children's Tribal Court Program

The primary goal of this project is to establish a model Children's Tribal Court to hear minor-in-need-of-care cases, and to produce a Children's Tribal Court bench manual. This manual will explain how to establish a children's tribal court and will highlight the differences in tribal law among tribes in Northern California in addition to outlining jurisdictional issues between the tribes and the state and federal governments.

Grief Resolution for Abused/Traumatized Children Program

This project will establish a model for responding to the loss, transition and grief process that children who have suffered abuse or neglect experience. This model program will include a response protocol system within a city, county or regional area to help children work through the grief process.

California Child Abduction Task Force

This project will continue the work of the Child Abduction Ad Hoc Committee. The Child Abduction Task Force will accomplish the following objectives: developing a risk assessment tool to assist first responders in evaluating degree of danger in child abductions; developing a protocol to maximize cooperation among law enforcement and multijurisdictional agencies; and developing a training curriculum for schools and the general public on how to prevent child abductions.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

1999 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT (CJA) TASK FORCE

Maintenance of California's CJA Task Force

Goal: To provide oversight for California's CJA activities.

Objectives: By September 30, 1999, the Task Force will:

Disseminate the results of the Transfer of Knowledge Forums for the Development of a Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse, which encouraged counties to develop a minimum standard protocol.

Plan follow-up forums for counties to display their protocols, providing an opportunity for counties to establish a coordinated inter-county as well as intra-county response to allegations of child abuse.

Purse legislation to establish State funding for counties who demonstrate they meet standard criteria for a multidisciplinary response to child abuse.

Development of the Minimum Standard Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse

In October of 1997, the Task Force developed minimum standards for a statewide protocol for the multidisciplinary or interagency investigation of child abuse and neglect. This protocol will help to ensure that child abuse cases are handled in a uniform manner throughout the state.

The CJA Task Force developed the minimum standard protocol in response to the statewide hearings held by the CJA Task Force in the fall of 1995. The purpose of these hearings was to evaluate the manner in which the criminal justice system handles allegations of child abuse. During the course of public hearings, the Task Force received written and oral testimony from more than 200 professionals working in the investigative, medical, prosecutorial, administrative and judicial fields concerned with child abuse and neglect. The majority of the testimony underscored the need to streamline and coordinate the manner in which suspected cases of child abuse and neglect are handled, which would reduce the trauma children experience when they disclose abuse, protect the rights of all parties involved and ensure that evidence is forensically sound and admissible in court.

The Minimum Standard Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse developed by the CJA Task Force includes the following:

The core agencies that should be involved in an investigation;
Written standards and the sequence of responses that should occur when an allegation of abuse is made;

Procedures for periodically reviewing the protocol by all agencies;
Procedures for cross-training among agencies;
Procedures for training to implement the protocol;
Procedures for addressing all children who are suspected of being abused or neglected, including children with special needs;
Considerations that should be taken into account for forensic interviews and medical exams;
Issues of confidentiality, sharing of information, denial of entry to any of the responders for a referral of child abuse, protective orders, background checks and emergency situations that call for deviation from the protocol.

The CJA Task Force has actively encouraged counties to meet these standards to ensure uniform treatment of child abuse cases throughout California by holding Transfer of Knowledge Forums. These forums brought together professionals from the court system, law enforcement, child protective services and the medical community to develop multidisciplinary protocols or revise existing protocols.

The first of these forums was held in Redding, California on October 23, 1997, the second in Sacramento on March 31, 1998 and the third in Los Angeles on April 2, 1998. The counties that attended these forums (10 from Northern California, 21 from Central California and 10 from Southern California) were very encouraged by the guidance and support offered by the Task Force. The heads of various law enforcement agencies, county welfare and health departments, child protective services, and district attorneys in attendance reported that most counties had some form of an interagency protocol for child abuse investigation, but did not meet the minimum standards set by the CJA Task Force.

The CJA Task Force is committed to ensuring that every county in California meet minimum standards in its response to child abuse and neglect. The Task Force plans to follow up the Transfer of Knowledge Forums by scheduling subsequent forums where counties can showcase the protocols they have developed. In addition, the Task Force is pursuing legislation that would establish funding for counties that meet the criteria spelled out by the minimum standard protocol.

TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE FORUMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROTOCOLS FOR THE CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

In October of 1997, the Task Force developed minimum standards for a statewide protocol for the multidisciplinary or interagency investigation of child abuse and neglect in response to the statewide hearings held by the CJA Task Force in the fall of 1995. The majority of the testimony underscored the need to streamline and coordinate the manner in which suspected cases of child abuse and neglect are handled, which would reduce the trauma children experience when they disclose abuse, protect the rights of all parties involved and ensure that evidence is forensically sound and admissible in court.

The Minimum Standard Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse developed by the CJA Task Force includes the following (a copy of the entire protocol may be found in the Appendix of this report):

The core agencies that should be involved in an investigation;
Written standards and the sequence of responses that should occur when an allegation of abuse is made;
Procedures for periodically reviewing the protocol by all agencies;
Procedures for cross-training among agencies;
Procedures for training to implement the protocol;
Procedures for addressing all children who are suspected of being abused or neglected, including children with special needs;
Considerations that should be taken into account for forensic interviews and medical exams;
Issues of confidentiality, sharing of information, denial of entry to any of the responders for a referral of child abuse, protective orders, background checks and emergency situations that call for deviation from the protocol.

The CJA Task Force has actively encouraged counties to meet these standards to ensure uniform treatment of child abuse cases throughout California by holding Transfer of Knowledge Forums. In order to meet this object, the CJA Task Force scheduled regional Transfer of Knowledge (TOK) forums in Northern, Central and Southern California. The Task Force asked the District Attorney of each county to take the lead to ensure the attendance of the Chiefs of police, Sheriff, and Director of the county Child Welfare Office at these forums. These are the core agencies, as defined by the CJA Task Force, responsible for the development and implementation of a multidisciplinary task force for child abuse investigations in each county.

At each forum, the county representatives were asked to assess the existing protocol(s) in their counties and to write up a plan of action to bring their protocols up to the bar set by the Minimum Standard Protocol (MSP) for child abuse investigation developed by the CJA Task Force.

The first of these forums was held in Redding, California on October 23, 1997, the second in

Sacramento on March 31, 1998 and the third in Los Angeles on April 2, 1998. The counties that attended these forums were very encouraged by the guidance and support offered by the Task Force. Most counties had some form of an interagency protocol for child abuse investigation, but did not meet the minimum standards set by the CJA Task Force.

Participants from 17 counties in Northern California attended the Redding TOK Forum and over half (10 counties) had a formal written protocol for the multidisciplinary investigation of child abuse. Four of these counties had a protocol that came very close to meeting the MSP and six counties had a protocol that required significant development in order to meet the bar. Seven of the smaller, sparsely populated counties did not have a written protocol, but five of those counties developed a plan of action and time-line agreement for developing a protocol that met the bar. The two remaining counties did not have enough participants to develop a plan of action or timeline agreement.

Participants from 21 counties in Central California attended the Sacramento Transfer of Knowledge Forum and all of them had some form of protocol. Eleven counties had a formal, written protocol with four of those counties coming very close to the bar set by the MSP and seven counties that had significant work to do in order to bring their protocols up to the bar. Only one of these counties failed to develop a plan of action and timeline agreement to bring their protocols up to the MSP. Ten counties had a protocol either through their multidisciplinary center or through informal but good working relationships among the core agencies required by the MSP. Only one of these counties did not develop a plan of action or timeline agreement.

Participants from 7 counties in Southern California attended the Los Angeles Transfer of Knowledge Forum. Five of those counties had a protocol that met the standards set by the MSP. Three of those counties came very close to meeting the bar established by the MSP and two had significant work to do in order to meet the bar. The two most populous counties in California, Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, did not have county-wide protocols but did have formal protocols developed by cities. In the case of the City Los Angeles, several protocols for the investigation of child abuse exist within the city itself. All of these counties, except for one, developed a plan of action and timeline agreement to bring their county up to the bar set by the MSP. The only county that did not develop a plan or agreement only sent one participant to the forum.

BARRIERS TOWARD DEVELOPING A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROTOCOL FOR CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING BARRIERS

The overwhelming consensus of the participants was that this forum was well worth their time and they were committed to developing and implementing a protocol to meet the MSP. However, during one of the working sessions where participants were asked to list the barriers toward developing a multidisciplinary protocol, the primary issue that emerged was a lack of resources, which translated into a lack of resources and personnel. The participants were also asked to identify strategies for overcoming these barriers, both of which were reported to the forum as a whole. The barriers and strategies identified by the participants at all the forums are as follows:

Barriers

Limited time and resources (i.e., funding issues).

Scheduling conflicts.

Lack of strong leadership.

Change in manpower or turnover in personnel.

Lack of awareness, coordination, and/ or communication among core agencies (e.g. multiple interviews by first responders).

Resistance among agencies due to “turf” issues; interagency protocols not a priority, thus not developed and/or implemented.

Lack of cross-training and on-going training among & within agencies.

Barriers, cont’d.

More agencies should be involved (e.g. school districts, which often are the first to report)

Confidentiality issues

Smaller counties do not have the resources that larger counties have.

Strategies

Find ways to turn “soft” money into “hard” money.

Schedule meetings from 7-8 a.m. on a regular basis.

The district attorneys need to be involved as a lead agency.

Design protocol as an impersonal document to outlive personnel changes.

Encourage each agency to educate others what they do, what their key issues are and what main problems they face as a means breaking down barriers to communication.

If kinder, gentler methods fail, use the stick of withholding OCJP funds for counties refusing to establish an interagency protocol or make the protocol a criterion for receiving funds.

Strategies, con’d.

Distribute copies of draft of written interagency protocol, get top people in each agency or department to sign off on it, implement cross-training procedures and stress the importance of an interagency protocol, i.e., reduction of trauma to children and gathering forensically sound evidence.

Clear up confusion by in-house training on legal issues of confidentiality; pursue further legislation if necessary.

Combine resources of smaller counties

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| | geographically close to one another; spread the word about grants and other outside sources of funding. |
| No formal communication among county jurisdictions. | Establish database/ web pages to electronically communicate information; also, formal face-to-face meetings among those involved in child abuse issues statewide. |
| Lack of communication between states | Work to establish interstate (and international) agreements when possible, e.g., Modoc County has an interstate agreement with Oregon and an international agreement with Canada regarding child abuse investigations. |
| Jurisdictional problems regarding offenses committed in multiple counties by the same defendant against the same victim. | Bill passed by Legislature and signed into law by the Governor that allows specified sex and child abuse offenses committed in several jurisdictions was committed to be prosecuted in any jurisdiction where at least one offense occurred, if the defendant and the victim are the same for all the offenses. |
| <p>The CJA Task Force announced that the participants would be invited back to follow-up forums the following year in which they could assess their progress and “showcase” their protocols.</p> <p>The lack of county funds, which are a major roadblock for counties that want to develop a protocol to meet the MSP, have been aggravated by the California budget process by the initiative process, which first limited property taxes and then mandated that a percentage of county revenues be transferred to the state. To help alleviate this situation in regard to developing a uniform, high quality response to allegations of child abuse throughout California, the CJA Task Force is working on a legislative proposal that would provide a stable source of funding for counties that can demonstrate that they meet the criteria spelled out by the MSP. (A copy of this legislative proposal can be found in the Appendix of this report.)</p> <p>Detailed list of county reports at the initial TOK forums may be found in the Appendix.</p> | |

Description of CJA Funded Programs

In June of 1997, the California CJA Task Force recommended the following programs established in FY 1996 continue for a period of three years. In addition, the CJA Task Force decided to use unexpended FY 1997 funds to implement two one-year programs described below.

ONE-YEAR PROGRAMS

A. Child Death Review Team Training

The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and Associates has received a one-time grant to assist the Child Death Review Teams in each of California's 58 counties. The operational functions of Child Death Review Teams in California, including assessment, tracking and reporting of child fatalities, are currently carried out at various levels of competency, and the objective of this grant is to ensure statewide uniformity. The training provided by ICAN includes the following:

Training Needs Assessment

Development of a Core Child Death Review Training Curriculum

Development of Common Definitions for use in Assessment, Tracking and Reporting of Child Fatalities

Field Testing of Core Curriculum and Common Definitions

Six Child Death Review Team Trainings provided over the Internet

One Child Death Review Team Training provided by satellite

The Provision of a Summary of Significant Outcomes

Accomplishments during the First Year of the Grant:

The private, nonprofit Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and Associates (ICAN) received this grant. This grant has been extended and augmented to adequately address the training needs of the Child Death Review (CDR) Teams in California's 56 (out of 58) counties. In conjunction with the California Consortium to Prevent Child Abuse, ICAN was able to complete a trainings needs survey of the 56 counties and develop a core Child Death Review Training Curriculum, which is presented to all of those attending the regional trainings given by ICAN. This curriculum is designed to be continually updated with professional articles, documents printed by CDR teams, materials and reports published by teams and reports from the National Center on Child Fatality Review. During the first year of the grant, ICAN has held four regional trainings in southern, central and northern California, which are aimed at "training trainers" from the county CDR teams.

The second year of the grant will entail more regional trainings in addition to a satellite training. ICAN has several operational agreements with local agencies and non-profits to coordinate their

efforts and leverage their expertise with professionals in the field of child abuse prevention, treatment, investigation and prosecution.

Prior to the completion of the grant, the California Consortium to Prevent Child Abuse, in collaboration with ICAN, will design an evaluation instrument to be submitted to all individuals who have participated in the CDR team trainings. This evaluation will address how well the trainings met the needs of county CDR teams in terms of developing protocols, establishing minimum standards for case identification, review and management in addition to identifying minimum standards for interview procedures, investigations, record reviews, and developing a uniform and systematic method for recording and collecting data on child fatalities.

B. Child Abduction Task Force

The Central California Child Abuse & Abduction Response and Resistance Education Services has received a one-time grant to form a Child Abduction Task Force that will follow through on the recommendations of the 1997 Child Abduction Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee identified the following priority issues to ensure the effectiveness of response, investigation and prosecution of child abduction cases:

Development of a risk assessment tool for use in the investigation of all child abduction cases.
Development of a protocol for requesting and coordinating interagency and multi-disciplinary training curricula.

Participation in the development of multidisciplinary training curricula.

Accomplishments during the First Year of the Grant:

This program began its one-year grant period June 30, 1998 and held its first meeting, at which members formally became part of the Task Force and a decision was made to publish the report drafted by the 1997 Child Abduction Ad Hoc Committee in addition to working on the above three objectives of this program. This Task Force also serves as an advisory group to a newly funded state program for the prevention of child abduction and prevention. This grant went out competitive for one project each in the northern and southern regions of California. The grant for the central region was awarded on a noncompetitive basis to California CARES, an organization in Fresno, California, which was directly awarded a grant from a line-item in the Governor's budget due to the work they had done with the Governor office during 1996-1999.

II. THREE-YEAR PROGRAMS

Multidisciplinary Child Advocacy Program

This program, which consists of five individual projects, supports the implementation of CJA Task Force the primary focus of all the recommendations in the 1996 California CJA Task Force Report, which advocate the development and implementation of a statewide, culturally sensitive protocol for the investigation of child abuse as a means of establishing consistency and quality in the way child abuse investigations are handled in the State of California..

Goal: To provide timely intervention services for children who disclose abuse from specially trained and adequately equipped practitioners. The primary purpose of three projects is to reduce the trauma children experience when they report abuse by enabling organizations that provide intervention services to child abuse victims. One project will treat older children who have been abused and subsequently endured multiple institutional placements. The fifth project will track and treat some of the children who have been reported as abused or neglected, but have fallen through the cracks. In short, the five projects included in this program are intended to help the fill gaps in services so children will receive a more complete array of intervention services to provide a model for statewide programs.

Objectives: By September 30, 1998, the five pilot projects selected for funding under this program in 1997, will be in the second year of their three-year funding cycle. These projects are filling the gaps in services to child abuse victims by:

Hire and/or training child forensic interview specialists, team members and volunteers
Equip and/or maintain special interview rooms with electronic devices to conduct and record the interview.

Hire and/or train advocates for children who are involved in child abuse court proceedings.

Work with law enforcement and social service agencies to provide long-term follow-up services for children who have been abused.

Development and implement long-range plans for children/teens who have been abused and subsequently institutionalized.

Expected Results: These five pilot projects will increase the number of high quality interviews, investigations and follow-up services for children who have been abused or neglected in addition to aiding in the prosecution of the perpetrators. The multidisciplinary approach will also help to ensure the evidence gathered is forensically sound and that the rights of the accused are not violated.

Accomplishments during the First Year of the Grant:

The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley received one of this program's five grants, which has allowed them to significantly increase the number of interviews allegedly abused and/or neglected children receive. Dr. Esther Gilles, who is the Executive Director of the Children's Center, and Joe Palacios, who is both the Project Director of this grant and the Team Coordinator for the Children's Center, have a well-established and respected reputations for their leadership and accomplishment in the field of treating child abuse victims. In addition to providing crucially needed staff at the Children's Center, this grant also helped the Children's Center to successfully establish a local medical clinic to provide forensic examination for abused children, which has committed to staffing the new clinic for this purpose. Prior to 1997, children were being transported 150 miles round trip to Los Angeles County (LAC) Hospital and to the University of Southern California (USC) Hospital.

Prior to receiving this grant, the Children's Center had to reduce the number of forensic interviews to approximately two per month due to state and local budget cuts. This grant has increased the number of interviews for child victims dramatically by funding 60% of the full-time position for the Team Coordinator who coordinates the multidisciplinary interview team (MDIT) of professionals, 40% of a full-time position for a Child Interview Specialist to conduct the forensic interviews for the MDIT, and 85% of a full-time position for a clerk who manages the necessary paperwork and records for the Team. This grant has enabled the Children's Center to increase the time of the Team Coordinator from 60% of a full-time position, hire a specially trained child forensic interviewer for 40% of a full-time equivalent. As a result, 51 children were interviewed out of 54 children referred to the center during the first year of the grant. There were 27 medical examinations performed. The District Attorney's Office screened 31 cases for prosecution, 5 of which have been filed (outcome pending), 10 of which have been pled and 16 cases were not filed. Moreover, the extra staff time has enabled the staff to both give and receive training, which has greatly benefited the District Attorney's Office, the LA County Sheriff's Department and Children's Social Workers, who have an extremely high turnover rate due to the high caseloads.

The primary need expressed by this grantee is to pass state legislation that would ensure a stable source of funding for multidisciplinary centers (MDIC) and MDITs. Legislation would not only enable MDITs and MDICs to continue offering high quality interviews to abused children, but it would also encourage counties who do not have a MDIC or MDIT to establish a team or center, and help ensure that California has a uniform and statewide response to allegations of child abuse.. (The CJA Task Force is proposing legislation to accomplish this, see below.)

2. The Santa Barbara Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM)/ Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Multidisciplinary Center (MDIC) has also dramatically increased their response to child abuse in Santa Barbara County after receiving one of the grants under this program. Dr. Anna Kokotovic, the Executive Director of CALM, is an authority in the field of child abuse and an experienced child forensic interviewer and MDIT member and the Project Director for this grant. This grant has allowed the center to increase services while maintaining their quality in South Santa Barbara County, and has allowed the center to extend services to North Santa Barbara County. The CALM Center serves as a harsh reality check on the popular media image of only wealth existing in Santa Barbara County. Unfortunately, the reality is an ever-increasing poverty rate (47% according to the 1990 County Homeless Report).

Specifically, this grant has enabled CALM to hire a full-time Multidisciplinary Coordinator and partially fund two child interview specialists, both of which have proved crucial for maintaining the quality of interviews while increasing the quantity. The statistics underscore the success of this grant during its first year: Out of 132 referrals, 97 children were interviewed and 57 children were given a medical exam. Fifty seven of those cases were screened by an attorney for trial and 19 cases have been brought to trial with 19 convictions and 9 cases are still being reviewed. There were a total of four cases rejected by the District Attorney's Office and 10 cases were dismissed.

Similar to the Children's Center of Antelope Valley, a full-time MDIT Coordinator has proved essential for bringing together law enforcement, district attorneys, social workers, and physicians

and/or nurse practitioners for a single interview. Previously, this responsibility fell on one of the members of the MDIT, who had other full-time responsibilities within their specific agency or practice and sometimes simply did not have the time to coordinate the interview. The MDIC Coordinator has also facilitated monthly Case Review Meetings for both North and South Santa Barbara County offices, aided in data collection and tracking families in addition to coordinating training and community outreach activities for the entire MDIT. The additional Child Interview Specialists have offered a greater spectrum of services for the team members and allows more flexibility in scheduling interviews. In addition to providing bilingual services, these specialists are trained in working with teens as well as young children and understand the dynamics of interviewing at different developmental levels. This grant has also allowed the MDIT members to attend as well as present specialized training. In short, CALM has been able to maintain its high quality of service in the face of an increasing rate of child abuse and neglect.

Santa Barbara's CALM Center, like the Center in Antelope Valley and most MDICs and MDITs throughout California, is a strong advocate for a stable source of funding. These centers and teams operate from grant to grant, which is a precarious means of providing the type of interview and services so desperately needed by children who have been abused or neglected. The members of the MDIT are often carry overwhelming caseloads in their own agency, which means, if they can even make the time, their efforts as part of the MDIT are usually voluntary.

Contra Costa County Social Service Department (SSD) received a grant to establish a physical location for their MDIT, which is a partnership among the following agencies: Contra Costa County SSD, Rape Crisis Center, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff-Coroner's Department, Police Chief's Association and the County Health Services Department. The first six months of the grant period involved locating, preparing and equipping the work site in addition to hiring the additional personnel necessary to run the center. The second six month period involved the commencement of interviews and steady progress toward the completion of program goals and objectives.

Prior to this grant, a child who alleged sexual molestation underwent numerous emotional interviews by various individuals trained to solicit different information, although none of them necessarily trained for interviewing children and none of them trained in all aspects of sexual abuse investigation. Moreover, Contra Costa had no specialized child-friendly facility to conduct the interviews and no one to coordinate the interviews with the multidisciplinary members in a timely manner and ensure that all are present for the interview, or to prioritize cases. The goal of this project is aimed at reducing the number a victim-child is interviewed about allegations of abuse/neglect, which reduces repeated trauma an already traumatized child has to endure in addition to ensuring more accurate, forensically sound evidence.

The Center hired Bruce H. Nelson, a retired Police Captain, as the MDIC Manager and two forensic interview specialists, who are both experienced Child Protective Services workers. All three received Child Forensic Training (CFIT). Two half-time administrative assistants were also hired to schedule interviews and perform clerical duties. The Center began conducting interviews on January 22, 1998. As of June 30, 1998, the Center conducted 101 interviews of child victims. This figure includes seven instances (7%) where children returned for a second interviews. A deputy district attorney participated as an observer in 96 of the 101 interviews

(95%) and a child-victim advocate was present for 82 interviews (81%). Only one case resulting from a Center interview was brought to trial during the first year of the grant, but this low figure is probably due to delays while investigations were completed and the time it takes for a case to work its way through the court system. Of the cases where interviews were conducted at the Center: 13 (13%) resulted in criminal charges filed; 11 (11%) resulted in no criminal filed; 28 (28%) have charges pending; 35 (35%) were closed without being submitted for a review by the District Attorney's Office; and 7 (7%) involved second interviews.

This project has demonstrated outstanding progress and can serve as a model for counties who do not have an MDIC center and want to establish an effective one in a short period of time. In less than one year, this project has been able to build a center and, through interagency coordination, implement a MDIC protocol. This has resulted in significantly streamlining the investigative process so the overwhelming number of children referred to the Center receive only one interview. This interview, conducted by a child interview specialist utilizing specialized equipment that allows other team members to view the interview through a one-way mirror and communicate with the interviewer through special audio-video equipment, has improved the collection of evidence in addition to recording and videotaping the interview for use in increased prosecution and conviction of perpetrators.

4. Children's Protection Center at San Diego Children's Hospital, differs from the above three in that it specifically focuses on children who have been reported as victims of child abuse, but for one reason or another have fallen through the cracks of the system. A child abuse report has been filed on all the children selected by this project, but for one reason or another the report had shelved with the police department and neither the children nor their families received any services. Rochelle Brown, MSW and the Project Director for a multidisciplinary effort that includes the San Diego Police Department and the City Attorney's Office together with herself and graduate student interns to review shelved reports on child abuse cases. The objective of this project is to find high-risk children who have fallen through the cracks and require follow-up services on cases that deserve to be turned over to a detective for further investigation in light of possible prosecution.

In the first six months of the grant, this project has provided services for 373 abused children that otherwise would not have received services, including: 78 cases for physical abuse; 75 cases in which children were victims associated with domestic violence; 31 cases of emotional abuse; 26 cases of emotional neglect; 22 cases of physical neglect; 21 cases of sexual abuse; 2 cases of health/medical neglect; and 2 cases in which children were witnesses to family trauma. The number of child abuse cases submitted for prosecution by the City Attorney's Office in 1998 totaled 600; compared to 65 cases submitted in 1997; 72 cases in 1996; 70 cases in 1995; and 61 cases in 1994. In short, more than double the number of cases have been submitted for criminal prosecution in the first six months of this project than for the total number of case submitted in the previous three years. These statistics clearly show that referrals have skyrocketed due to this project.

One of main benefits of this project has been the collaboration of social workers and police departments working together in child abuse cases. The appalling conditions in which children have been found by this project's team effort, is only the tip of the iceberg of the existing problem. Most of these cases would qualify for dependency court if not criminal court. The

funding for this program has clearly demonstrated how important it is for social workers and law enforcement to coordinate their efforts in child abuse cases. With the overwhelming number of cases that need follow-up and/or further investigation for possible prosecution, this program needs to be expanded on a much larger scale.

The San Bernardino Child Advocacy Program, Inc. (SBCAPI), which received one of the five Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Advocacy grants, also differs from the rest of the projects by directly addressing the needs of older children (teens) who have suffered abuse when they were young and have subsequently become dependents of the court and often placed in multiple foster/group homes and/or in institutional placements. Audella Cook, the Executive Director of SBCAPI, has an advanced degree in social work and is former Child Protective Service worker. As director of this project, she has her extensive experience and knowledge of the juvenile and court systems in California and an ability to market this program, which has received recognition both locally and nationally.

SBCAPI is the sole local agency approved and designated by the San Bernardino County Superior and Juvenile Court Presiding Judges to serve as the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL). In accordance with the guidelines in existing law, SBCAPI recruits, screens, trains, supervises and support community volunteers. This grant has enabled to establish the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) that provides trained one-on-one mentoring, support, training, referrals, medical, dental and educational needs for teens who have suffered not only from abuse and neglect as children but also from the inconsistency, instability and confusion created by the very system that is supposed to help them.

The goal of the Youth Empowerment Program is to expand and enhance services to provide individualized, consistent, time-intensive guidance and support for older children who have a history of abuse. In addition, YEP will provide training for the skills necessary for the transition into adulthood, especially for those children whose multiple placements in foster care, group homes or institutions has prevented the normal development and acquisition of necessary skills for independence. In order to implement this program, SBCAPI has met the following objectives:

- Hiring and training a child case manager and an administrative assistant;
- Developing a referral system from the review of court files and from social workers;
- Conducting field interviews and evaluations of referrals;
- Recruit, screen, select, train and supervise volunteers;
- Provide crisis intervention, assignment and services to teens who have been referred to the program;
- Provide supervision and clinical oversight of volunteers;
- Provide case planning and management on all assigned cases;
- Maintain an effective and efficient tracking system on the program, including volunteer hours, reports, expenses, client referrals, assignments, removals, budget and client cases;
- Provide evaluation for program effectiveness.

YEP had to change its original target base from a majority of female minor dependency cases to a majority of male minor delinquent cases. The change was due to the type of cases referred to

YEP. This entailed re-focusing of the training for volunteers, since the latter cases often involved a history of serious crimes. During the first year, most of the volunteers were women, yet the need is for men to mentor the majority of referrals of minor male delinquents. YEP received a training waiver from the Judicial Council that allowed them to recruit law enforcement officers who could under a reduced requirement for training (from 40 hours to 10-15 depending on their previous training and experience). The next hurdle was designing a campaign to attract volunteers from this field. Although YEP has not met its original goal of matching 35 volunteers with 35 minors referred to the program, it has made some remarkable accomplishments in the face of the major hurdles mentioned above in addition to financial and equipment delays. Due to the unforeseen challenges facing YEP, the original goal for serving 35 children in the first year has been changed to serving 45 children in two years. Despite all these problems the YEP program encountered in its first year, it was still able to recruit enough volunteers who were able to make a 2-year commitment to the program, receive the 40 hours of training and provide written reports and recommendations for 17 children at court hearings and nine children have been referred to YEP.

Ms. Cook has received extremely favorable responses from newspaper reports, presentations at national conference and contributions to follow-up this grant from the Kiwanis and the McCarthy foundation.. This project is responding to a very real and crucial problem in California and is one that deserves to go statewide if the grant continues to

Tribal Court Program

This goal of this program is to coordinate and integrate State, local and Tribal efforts to address the needs of American Indian child abuse victims and their families.

Objectives: By September 30, 1998, the Two Feathers Indian Child Welfare Program in Eureka, California will be in its second year of a three-year funding cycle. The primary goal of this project is to establish a model Children's Tribal Court and to produce a Bench Guide that will help other tribes who would like to replicate this court. This project is currently doing the following:

Establishing a model Children' Tribal Court to hear minor-in-need-of-care cases.
Producing a children's tribal court bench manual.

Expected Results: The establishment of a Children's Tribal Court will address the problems associated with the difference in tribal law among tribes in California and between the tribes and state and federal law. It will also respond to the cultural needs of Indian children who are victims of abuse or neglect.

Accomplishments during the First Year of the Grant: This grant was awarded to the Two Feathers Indian Child Welfare Program (ICWP) in located in Eureka, California. During the first year of this grant, a judge, Donna Goldsmith, was hired, who is an attorney specializing in ICWA issues. She has conducted an extensive review of numerous children's codes throughout the country and is currently in the process of drafting a Children's Code in addition to a Bench Guide (procedures and goals) for this project, the Northcoast Intertribal Children's court.

Judge Goldsmith has also been working hard to establish ties in the community, especially with local judges, law enforcement, district attorneys, Indian health organizations and social service agencies. In addition, she has been busy establishing a network for tribes in Northern California to share information and coordinate the use of resources. A court clerk, Della Romano, has also been hired who aids in the collection of data, creating forms for courtroom documentation, services and statistical information in addition to databases to house information. Ms. Romano is also helping to research and draft the Children's Code and Bench Guide.

The court itself will be located next to the Two Feather ICWP and has been set up to begin functioning as a court during the second year of the grant. The project expects to hear at least five dependency cases involving Indian children during the second year of the grant and at least 15 cases in the third year in addition to completing the Children's Code and Bench Guide, which can be used to duplicate this project on other reservations. This project is an important step toward serving Indian children from various tribes in the same region and to help ensure that culturally appropriate services are provided for these children and that they will be placed in Indian foster homes whenever possible, as required by Federal Law.

Child Pornography Law Enforcement Training /Technical Assistance Program

This program supports the implementation of the California CJA Task Force recommendations that require specialized training for the investigation of child abuse (#1, #8, #9, and #13) in the 1996 CJA Task Force Report.

Goal: To train multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency law enforcement professionals on investigative techniques that will decrease the proliferation of child sexual abuse and exploitation pornography.

Objectives: By September 30, 1998, the Child Pornography Law Enforcement project will be in its second year of a three-year funding cycle. This project is currently doing the following:

Using an undercover operation developed by this project to identify, investigate and lead to the prosecution of individuals located in the Central District of California (CDCA) who are using the Internet to meet children for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity.

Identifying those in the CDCA who produce and or/use child pornography.

Disrupting the production and dissemination of child pornography in the CDCA.

Training law enforcement officers to respond to citizen complaints regarding child pornography.

Developing a curriculum of investigative techniques for tracking child pornography and child exploitation over the Internet and providing technical assistance to local law enforcement when needed.

Expected Results: This project will reduce the number of victimization of children by training law enforcement professionals on how to disrupt the production and distribution of child pornography in addition to investigating and prosecuting individuals who are identified through the undercover operation.

Accomplishments during the First Year of the Grant: The Southern California Regional Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team received this grant. The SAFE Team is made up of law enforcement officers from the local, state and federal levels and the grant is administered through the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Relief Foundation Fund. Although this grant was initially delayed by a number of factors, it has been able to set up an undercover operation and have implemented of a computerized case log book, which is a case specific tracking system. This system tracks arrests, convictions, search warrants, child victims and investigative techniques used to apprehend child pornographers and individuals who use the Internet as a means of luring young victims for sexual purposes. The results of this operation are impressive. Twelve adults have been investigated, prosecuted and convicted and sixteen child victims have been identified and recommended for receiving services. Contraband seized from the under cover operation includes numerous child pornography images transmitted over the Internet.

The SAFE team has also attended several conferences and presented workshops on child pornography. In addition it has conducted eleven training sessions to law enforcement and related professions, which are averaging 300-400 attendees. This rate of attendance reflects an increasing awareness about the serious nature of this crime in addition to the need for increased computer literacy on the part of professionals to recognize this information is transmitted and how children become victims.

During the second and third years of this grant, the undercover and tracking operations and the training courses, seminars and workshops will continue. The SAFE Team will be producing a handbook that will offer a model course for law enforcement on identifying and investigating child pornography crimes to be completed by the end of the grant. Most of the material has been researched and gathered. The next step will be to organize this and plan for written drafts, which will go to the publisher six months prior to the end of the Grant. This project is meeting a very real need in behalf of protecting innocent victims of predators who operate by means of the Internet, and the handbook produced by the project will help communities after this project is completed.

Abuse Reactive African American High Risk Youth Program

The goal of this program is to conduct a study and, based upon the study findings, to develop a program plan for systemic change in the juvenile justice system's handling of abused or neglected African American youth who are at risk of reacting to abuse with behavior leading to the involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Objectives: By September 30, 1998, the Abuse Reactive African American High Risk Youth project will be in its second year of a three-year funding cycle. This project is currently doing the following

Researching the number and extent of child abuse reactive African American male children and youth, ages 9-12, who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system.

Creating a methodology to identify abuse reactive children and youth at the earliest point of intervention.

Determining appropriate interventions to reduce delinquent behavior and strengthening resiliency in child abuse reactive children and youth.

Expected Results: The research conducted by this project will assist criminal justice professionals in understanding child abuse reactive behavior in African American children and youth, and will assist in reducing the risk of involvement or future involvement of these children and youth in the juvenile/criminal justice system.

Accomplishments During the First Year of the Grant: This grant was awarded to Institute for the Study of Community-Based Services at the Edgewood Center for Children and Families. Dr. Don Cohon, Director of Research at Edgewood, is the Project Director and is conducting an on-going literature search on abuse-reactive children and has developed, edited, revised and pilot-tested the interviews that will be used for both the children and their caregivers. The pilot tests were videotaped to allow for adjustments in both the questions and manner in which the questions were asked. At the end of their first year, one-third of the interviews have been given, recorded and transcribed. This project is working with a number of local and state government agencies regarding the identification of children who are adjudged a ward of the court due to criminal behavior as defined under Welfare and Institution Code Section 600 (WIC 600), and who have also been abused by parents/and or caretakers and currently live in kinship care homes, which will be matched with abused or neglected children who are adjudged wards of the court and do not have records or reports of any criminal behavior as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code 300 (WIC 300) and also live in kinship care homes. Dr. Cohon is using a qualitative research program to analyze the data from the interviews and was able to present preliminary findings at the 7th Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect on July 15, 1998.

The project has identified six out of the projected 20 for the WIC 602 group and hope to find more candidates as they pursue leads to identify the WIC 300 status change to WIC 600. It is very difficult to identify these children from existing records, but Dr. Cohon and his associates are working hard to have public agencies modify their databases of information to eventually yield more useful and compatible information, which has enormous long-range potential if developed and implemented on a county and statewide scale. This linkage of systems is crucial so children can receive an accurate assessment from which appropriate interventions and referrals can be made during the course of their treatment.

After the complete interview data from the first year, the program recommendations will be made with respect to intervention methodology. Final recommendations and a model program for replication will be available after completing the second and third year of the study. Modifications are made as the project continues and procedures change or are developed. This study promises to yield solutions to a well-known and well-documented problem, namely, that overwhelming percentages of abused children act out that abuse as they grow up. This problem significantly affect the high number of African American children now in the juvenile justice system for criminal behavior.

Grief Resolution for Abused/Traumatized Children Program

This program supports the implementation of recommendations to provide transdisciplinary

training and treatment for professionals who deal with children who have been victimized by abuse or neglect (#1, #2, #4, and #12)in the California CJA Task Force Report of 1996.

Goal: This project will develop and implement a model program that responds to the loss, transition and grief process of children who directly or indirectly experience abuse and/or witness abuse or violence in their family or friendship circle.

Objectives: By September 30, 1998, the Grief Resolution for Abused/Traumatized Children project will be in its second year of a three-year funding cycle. This project is currently accomplishing or will accomplish the following:

Compiling a comprehensive summary of the number of children who are direct or indirect victims of abuse in the applicant's service area.

Establishing a task force that responds to children impacted by abuse and/or violence.

Establishing written protocols for use in a city, county or regional approach.

Compiling a handbook that outlines therapeutic approaches to serve these children.

Compiling a comprehensive training curriculum to educate professionals who respond to children impacted by abuse and/or violence.

Providing training to multidisciplinary professionals who respond to these children.

Preparing a handbook that serves as a resource for cities, counties or regions to replicate the Grief Resolution for Abused/Traumatized Children Program.

Expected Results: A reduction in trauma for surviving children and family members who have suffered from child abuse or family violence in addition to an improved adjustment to life after the abuse or violence occurs.

Accomplishments During the First Year of the Grant: This grant was awarded to the CARE Children's Counseling Center in Santa Barbara. Dr. Jan Gilman is the Project Director and has completed an extensive literature search on the issue of grief and loss during the first year of the program. Most of the information involves the loss and subsequent grief for children who have suffered the death of a parent(s) as opposed to children who grieve the loss as a result of abuse. This resulted in , Dr. Gilman doing a significant amount of original research through the collection of demographic data in the Santa Rosa region. She has sent 200 surveys out to mental health practioners in the Sonoma County area who identify themselves as clinicians who work with children for additional demographic information.

One of her initial tasks was to develop criteria for analyzing the data and a protocol for its collection. For example, it was necessary to define what constitutes a child in the home who has suffered loss and experienced grief as a result of abuse or neglect and to distinguish not only between direct and indirect victims but also between a child who observed domestic violence by a casual boyfriend as opposed to domestic violence perpetrated by a parent. This involves a very careful reading of the police records.

Dr. Gilman developed a working relationship with the Santa Rosa Police Department (SRPD), which required resolving the issue of confidentiality, which she hopes will set a precedent for dealing with a very controversial issue. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the

SRPD, in conjunction with the Project's relationship with Sonoma County's Multidisciplinary Task Force on Sexual Abuse also sets a precedent for the eventual long-term treatment of child abuse and neglect victims. This MOU can be extended to other agencies in the community. One of the main challenges this project faces is the lack of information in the data about the long-term disposition of the perpetrator's status in the family. The police report does not address the initial disposition, and therefore it is very difficult to find out whether the perpetrator returned home hours after posting bail or if he/she was separated from the child for a more substantial period following the incident.

Dr. Gilman completed the first three chapters of the handbook that this Project will complete by the end of the three-year grant period. She is working closely with her research committee who are offering advise and editorial assistance and chapter four, addressing the issue of traumatic grief will be written subsequent to the collection and canalization of empirical data. Dr. Gilman anticipates four chapters, which will introduce the concepts of grief, address the issue of grief in children, respond and treat the grief experienced by child and, finally, distinguishing the needs of children suffering from traumatic grief from children experiencing from other types of separation and loss. This last topic will incorporate the results of their survey in addition to some brief interviews to be conducted with a limited number of practitioners. The publication of this handbook will be a significant contribution toward making referrals, follow-up and long-term treatment of abused children an important part of multidisciplinary protocols for the investigation of child abuse.